

# Hurricane Ida Report #11

## September 7, 2021

**INCIDENT OVERVIEW** Hurricane Ida made landfall August 29, 2021, at approximately 12:00 pm west of Grand Isle, Louisiana. High winds and storm surge affected the coastal Parishes of Louisiana, leading to widespread power and communications outages throughout Southeast Louisiana. Ida produced heavy rains across the central Gulf Coast from southeast Louisiana to coastal Mississippi, Alabama, as well as the Lower Mississippi Valley resulting in considerable flash, urban, small stream, and riverine flooding.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On September 7, 2021, EPA deployed the ASPECT air monitoring plane to assess industrial targets identified by the state of Louisiana following Hurricane Ida, the mission is currently scheduled through September 7, 2021. ASPECT did not fly on September 6, 2021 due to weather issues.
- The EPA Region 6 and 7 mobile drinking water laboratories demobilized from the Hurricane Ida response on September 7, 2021 per instructions from FEMA.
- On August 31, 2021, FEMA issued a Mission Assignment for drinking water and wastewater subject matter experts to assist FEMA and the state. The two subject matter experts began their mission on, September 1, 2021.
- As of 1:00 pm on September 7, 2021, EPA has received a total of 178 National Response Center (NRC) reports with 41 in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR) related to Hurricane Ida, of these 17 are air releases. None have required EPA response actions beyond assessments by the Phone Duty Officer.
- EPA is remotely monitoring two facilities with on-going air releases, ExxonMobil Baton Rouge and Shell Norco, and an oil spill in Lake Salvador which is currently being responded to by the responsible party.
- LDEQ reported that 9 of their ambient air monitoring sites have stopped polling due to power outages as of September 7, 2021. LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) are positioned in Norco and Marrero.
- Drinking Water System Status

Status *	Systems	Population Served
Water Outages	51	63,005
Boil Water Advisories	242	842,067
Cleared of Boil Water Advisories	30	263,106

\* As of 10:00 am on September 7, 2021

- LDEQ has completed their initial Rapid Needs Assessments of the impacted area. At this time an ESF #10 Mission Assignment to EPA for assistance with orphan containers and spills is not

anticipated. Assessments of drinking water, wastewater and industrial facilities are ongoing. No major issues have been reported to date.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS**

- The Office of External Affairs (ORAX) is working with the HQ Public Information Officer on press inquiries. ORAX continues to post information to social media.
- ORAX posted EPA links to Public Service Announcements about emergencies and disasters to <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneIda>. These links are in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- OCTEA conducted their second stakeholder meeting on September 7, 2021. Questions and comments to OCTEA centered on air monitoring, especially in areas near facilities that are flaring, and water sampling at drinking and wastewater facilities by the State of Louisiana.
- A public response site has been created at <https://response.epa.gov/HurricaneIda>.
- As Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) transitions their activities to the field, the need for Liaison Officers from EPA has decreased, so as of September 4, 2021, only one EPA staff will serve as a liaison to FEMA. The position will continue to be staffed virtually.
- On September 2 and 3, 2021, the Region 6 Air Enforcement Branch reached out to 10 facilities that reported air releases to the National Response Center. Follow-up questions to the NRC reports were sent to these facilities. The facilities have 7 days to respond to EPA once they receive the questions.
- The EPA Remedial Program monitored 23 total NPL sites pre- and post-hurricane. All 23 were cleared and none required action.
- On August 27, 2021, Office of Regional Counsel (ORC) received a Force Majeure notice from the Valero (Meraux) Refinery in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. The notice provides that the refinery will shut down its Community Air Monitoring Station on Ventura Drive in order to protect the equipment. The refinery provided the notice pursuant to the terms of the Consent Decree it is under. On September 2, 2021, ORC received an update to the notice, the facility still lacks power, therefore, the air monitoring has not resumed.
- A Force Majeure notice from New Orleans Water and Sewerage Board was received on September 3, 2021. The notice provides that the Sewerage and Water Board does not yet know the extent of damage sustained as a result of Hurricane Ida.
- EPA received a Force Majeure notice of a two-week delay from the Chair of the Star Lake Canal Cooperating Parties (SLCCP) pursuant to EPA's 09/26/2016 Remedial Design Administrative Order on Consent was received by EPA. The notice acknowledges that Hurricane Ida did not impact the Star Lake Canal Superfund Site near Port Neches, Texas. However, the Pre-Final Design work cannot be completed because the SLCCP contractors, who are located in Baton Rouge, LA, cannot deploy due to storm damage.
- Fourteen intakes associated with 11 drinking water facilities along the Mississippi River are near the discharge by the New Orleans Water and Sewerage Board. The Louisiana Department of Health has notified the water systems downstream of the release. Power has been restored to the plant, however, the bypass will continue until the plant is fully operational. Of the six drinking water systems downstream of the bypass, two have cleared their Boil Water Advisory (BWA), two are under a BWA, one still has an outage and information is still being collected on the sixth system.

## **COORDINATION WITH STATE AGENCIES**

- EPA is participating in the daily Hurricane Taskforce calls with the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), LDEQ, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) and the USCG to discuss storm preparations and resource availability.



